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TOTAL PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET: 7

TO: Examiner McDonald

COMPANY: USPTO

LOCATION: Art Unit 1753

FAX: 703-872-9310

PHONE:

DATE: July 3, 2003

SUBJECT: Mechanically Joined Sputtering Target and Adaptor Thereof
U.S. Serial No. 08/881,948

CC:

COMMENTS:

Attached are the following:

- an RCE
- Preliminary Amendment

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**Request
For
Continued Examination (RCE)
Transmittal**

Address to:
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Application Number | 08/881,948 |
| Filing Date | June 25, 1997 |
| First Named Inventor | David P. Strauss |
| Art Unit | 1753 |
| Examiner Name | R. McDonald |
| Attorney Docket Number | CS-21,026 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on _____

ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. Other Preliminary Amendment

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 16-2440

i. RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$ _____ enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Name (Print/Type) Signature | David A. Schwartz | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 143,909 |
| | | Date | 07-3-03 |

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Name (Print/Type) | |
| Signature | |

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

David P. STRAUSS et al.

U.S. Serial No.: 08/881,948

Group Art Unit: 1753

Filed: June 25, 1997

Title: Mechanically Joined Sputtering
Target and Adaptor Thereof

Examiner: R. McDonald

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GROUP 1700#25/D
W.M.
7/15/03
(NR)**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT****VIA FACSIMILE – 703-872-9310**Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. Please amend the case before examination and before calculation of the filing fees as follows:

In the claims:

9. (Three Times Amended) A target for installation in a vacuum chamber for processing a substrate by causing sputtering material to be ejected from the target onto said substrate, comprising

a disk-shaped section having two planar surfaces and on outer periphery, said disk-shaped section having at least one radically inward step proximate said outer periphery, said disk-shaped section having at least one radially-inward step proximate the said outer periphery.

an adapter having an inner radial flange with at least one groove therein to accommodate an o-ring, said radial flange being disposed in a mating relationship with said radially-inward step thereby preventing leakage into said vacuum chamber at the interface of said adapter and said vacuum chamber.